

MTO 20.4 Examples: Beate Kutschke, Sign Systems

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.14.20.4/mto.14.20.4.kutschke.php>

Figure 1. Variants of the discourse on ineffability and impeded access to ‘the world’

- a) *The meaning of music is ineffable in verbal language.*
 Meaning: music is ‘deficient’ and ‘mysterious’ at the same time
 Type of discourse: on music
- b) *The meaning of verbal language is ineffable in music.*
 Meaning: verbal language is ‘deficient’
 Type of discourse: none, analogue construction
- c) *The arts are unable to ‘be expressed’ by verbal language.*
 Meaning: the arts are ‘deficient’
 Type of discourse: none, analogue construction
- d) *Ineffability consists of the ‘inability’ of verbal language to ‘express’ the meaning of art.*
 Meaning: verbal language is ‘deficient’ because the arts are overwhelmingly full of meaning
 Type of discourse: on the arts
- e) *The use of signs reduces or limits an adequate, immediate, and authentic access to the world.*
 Meaning: sign procedures are ‘deficient’ in comparison to the complete, full experience and perception of the authentic world, i.e., physical reality
 Type of discourse: cultural-critical
- f) *The consumption of psychedelic drugs and meditation provides immediate access to the authentic world.*
 Meaning: individual cultural practices ‘counter-act’ the ‘deficiency’ of verbal language
 Type of discourse: cultural-critical
- g) *Unlike socio-culturally developed, i.e., artificial signs, natural signs do not reduce or limit an adequate, immediate, and authentic access to the world.*
 Meaning: natural signs are not ‘deficient’
 Type of discourse: cultural-critical
- h) *Art works that do not operate as signs exhibit and emphasize the materiality of the sign and provide immediate access to the authentic world.*
 Meaning: those art works are not ‘deficient’
 Type of discourse: aesthetic-philosophical
- i) *Music is a language [or more exactly sign system] that we speak [use] and understand, but cannot translate [into verbal language].*
 Meaning: music is ‘deficient’ and ‘mysterious’ at the same time
 Type of discourse: music-aesthetical
- j) *Verbal language is a language [or more exactly sign system] that we speak and understand, but cannot translate [into music].*
 Meaning: verbal language is ‘deficient’
 Type of discourse: none, analogue construction

Figure 2. Sign procedures based on similarity

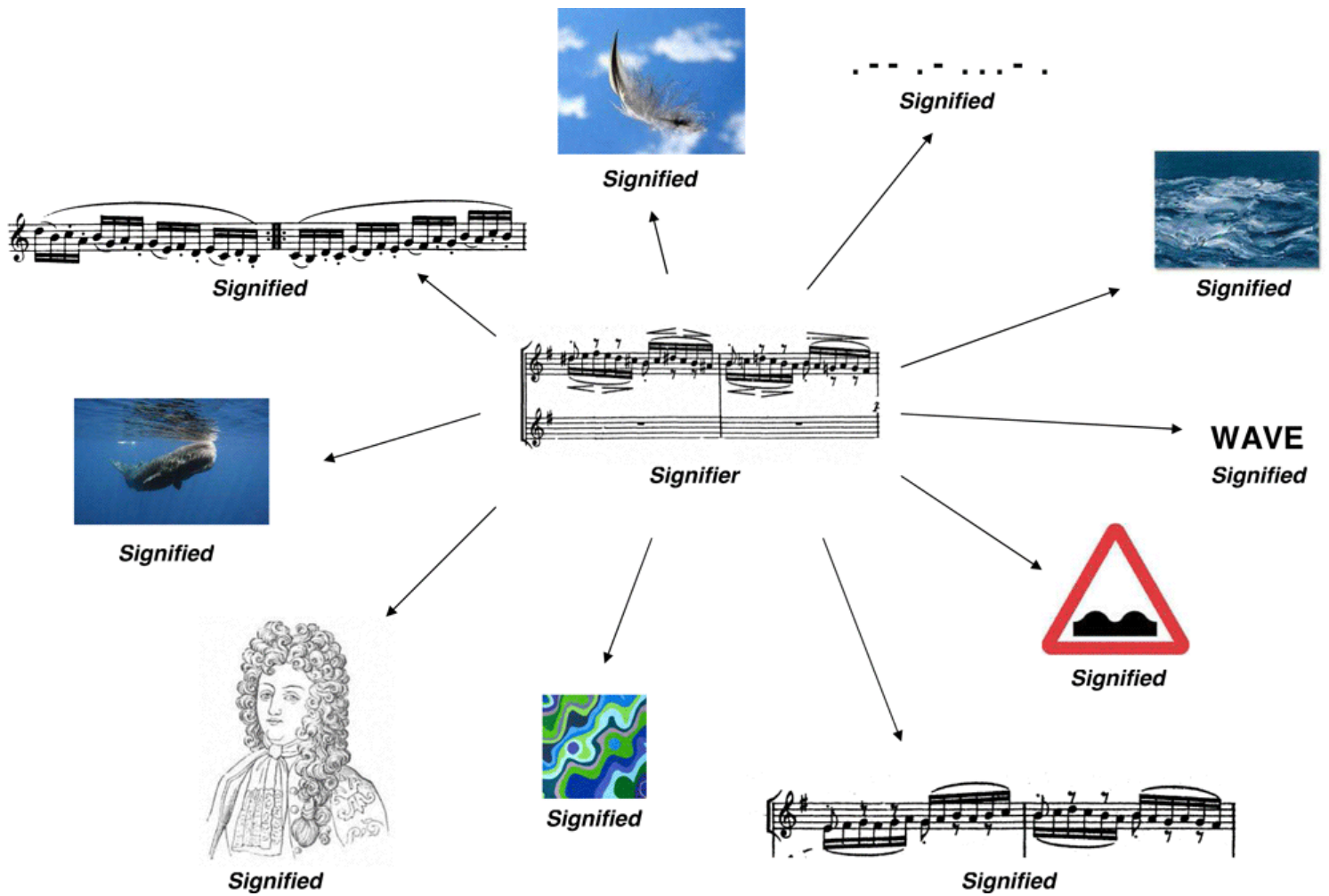
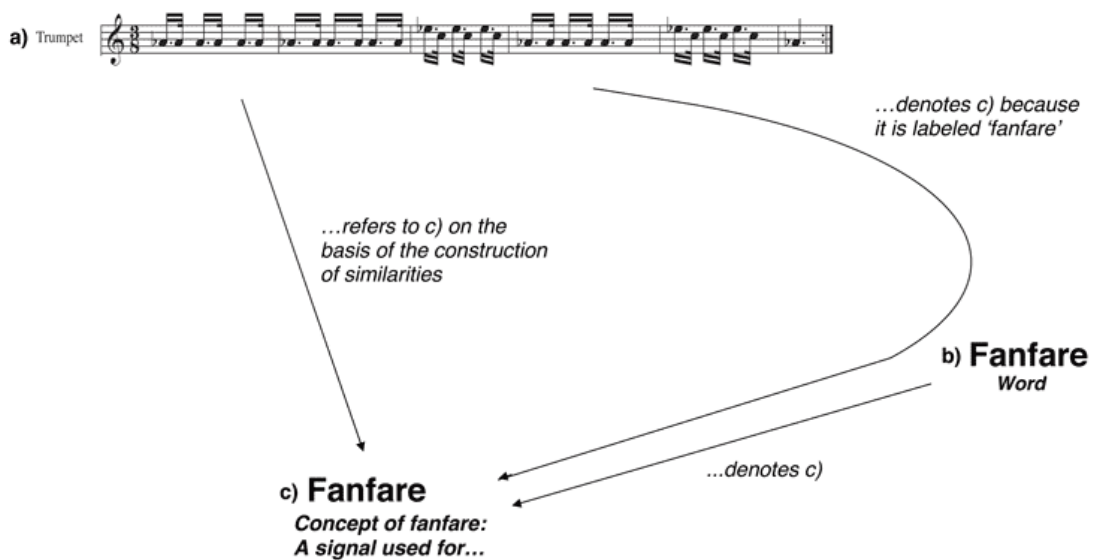


Figure 3. Referential relationship implied if listeners attribute to music the label 'fanfare'

The sign user attributes to a), b) and c) that it...



Example 1. Brahms, Piano Quartet op. 60, no. 3, opening

Allegro non troppo

Violine

Bratsche

Violoncell

Allegro non troppo

Pianoforte

f *dim.* *f* *dim.*

Red. *

Example 2. Stravinsky, *Orphée*, opening
New York: Boosey & Hawkes, 1948

Lento sostenuto, $\text{♩} = 69$

Arpa

mf marc. près de la table *sim.*

Violini I

Violini II

Viole

Violoncelli

Contrabassi

p *p* *p* *p* *p*

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